

5

AMERICAN CULTURE



American Information Resource Center United States Consulate Chennai 600 006

Tel: 811 2000

December 2002

AMERICAN CULTURE

1) American Composer (1993)	P.3
2) American Culture (1992)	P.5
3)The American Traveller (1995)	P.7
4) America Cultural Masters (1993)	P.10
5) Club Date (1994)	P.12
6) Holiday U.S.A. (1994)	P.14
7) Native American Arts (1996)	P.16
8) Native Americans (1996)	P.18
9) Portraits in American Arts (1996)	P.19

AMERICAN COMPOSERS (1993)

American music is known for its spirit, inventiveness, and knack for blending the traditions of the past with the unsettling voice of the explorer. George Gershwin was the first composer to introduce the jazz idiom to classical music, while Duke Ellington continued the tradition and became one of America's greatest songwriters. This series introduces viewers to both well-known and less familiar works by composers sometimes known better for their performing skills than their songwriting ability.

Episode Synopsis

101 "THE SACRED MUSIC OF DUKE ELLINGTON" 90 Minutes

Duke Ellington is world-renowned as a jazz composer, conductor, and performer. However, his classical compositions are less widely known. This episode features a selection of his sacred works performed in a 90-minute concert at London's St. Paul's Cathedral, with host Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., soprano Phyllis Hyman, and the St. Paul's Men's Choir.

102 "RICHARD NANES IN CONCERT AT THE U.N." 60 Minutes

At the invitation of the Chinese delegation, the Philadelphia-born pianist and composer Richard Nanes performs his own works, both lyrical and atonal, in a 60-minute concert at the United Nations.

103 "THE MOSCOW PHILHARMONIC PERFORMS THE MUSIC OF RICHARD NANES" 118 Minutes

This concert video takes us to Moscow for the premiere of two works by the contemporary American composer-pianist Richard Nanes. The distinguished Moscow Philharmonic performs the "Symphony for Strings" and the passionate "Rhapsody Pathetique for Violin and Orchestra."

104 "GEORGE GERSHWIN REMEMBERED" 90 Minutes

The life and personality of the genius who wrote "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Porgy and Bess," and "An American in Paris" is presented through previously unpublished photographs from the family archives, home movies, and film clips of many of the Hollywood stars for whom he wrote his music.

105 "YOU'RE THE TOP: THE COLE PORTER STORY" 50 Minutes

"I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're The Top," and "Begin The Beguine," some of the wittiest, funniest, and most romantic songs ever written, were all products of Cole Porter's genius. This one-hour profile features interviews as well as rare photographs and archival footage.

106 "SOPHISTICATED LADIES" 109 Minutes

With its three dozen Duke Ellington songs, including "Take The 'A' Train," "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," "I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good," "Mood Indigo," and, of course, "Sophisticated Lady," this show is a non-stop powerhouse of singing and dancing with the kind of energy only a live performance can elicit.

AMERICAN CULTURE (1992)

Fine art, folk art, photography, crafts, and modern dance are among the most graceful and long-lasting expressions of American culture. This series documents the work of artists, collectors and performers in expanding the influence of American culture throughout the world.

Episode Synopsis

101 "FOCUS: FOUR AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHERS" 27 Minutes

This U.S. Government production profiles of four photographers: Robert Madden of National Geographic Magazine, corporate photographer Ted Horowitz, New York fashion photographer Rebecca Black, and fine arts photographer and college professor Jerry Uelsmann.

102 "THESE FESTIVALS OF SUMMER" 27 Minutes

Performers and spectators alike vie for places at annual American music festivals. This U.S. Government production salutes festivals in Tanglewood, Massachusetts, Aspen, Colorado, Taos, New Mexico and Carmel, California.

103 "PABLITA VELARDE: AN ARTIST AND HER PEOPLE" 27 Minutes

Native American artist Pablita Velarde reflects on her life and the influence of Pueblo Indian culture on her paintings. This documentary highlights her rich earth color paintings, in which clay, rocks, and sand from her village are ground together and added to her paints.

104 "ANSEL ADAMS" 24 Minutes

Noted photographer Ansel Adams, who captures the majesty of nature in his celebrated western landscape portraits, explains how his work has evolved, why he favors black-and-white photography, and what he has tried to teach his students.

105 "JENNIFER MULLER AND THE WORKS" 24 Minutes

New York-based choreographer Jennifer Muller and her dance group perform three of her contemporary compositions: "Lovers," "Chants," and "Speed."

106 "LAR LUBOVITCH AT JACOB'S PILLOW" 25 Minutes

Artistic director Lar Lubovitch introduces his dance company, comments on the history of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts, and rehearses his contemporary troupe.

107 "NATIVE AMERICAN ART AND REGGIE" 30 Minutes

This program surveys Native American arts and crafts. Also, Reggie Gammon, an African-American painter and art teacher, discusses his views on artists in today's world and his own need for artistic integrity.

THE AMERICAN TRAVELER (1995)

Visit a dozen of the most popular tourist destinations in the U.S. without having to pack your bags. This series of 15-minute programs offers a wide ranging look at the economic opportunities as well as the scenic attractions of well-known localities, from the stockyards of Chicago to the software firms of Seattle, from the stage shows in Las Vegas to the sailboats in San Diego, from the ancient chasms of the Grand Canyon to the antebellum mansions outside New Orleans.

EPISODE SYNOPSIS

101 "PORTLAND" (14:33)

Portland, also known as Oregon's "City of Roses," invites visitors to enjoy hot air ballooning, the Pendleton Rodeo, dune buggy racing, classic car rallies, the Washington Park rose garden, the Rose Festival, the Zoo, Mount Hood and the Columbia River.

102 "GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA" (12:19)

This American scenic icon is a huge national park, stretching across Arizona from the Utah border to Nevada and bisected by the Colorado River. The video covers aerial views of the canyon walls and the turbulent river, the South Rim, the Havasupai Village, Havasu Falls, the Visitor's Center, the El Tovar Hotel, Lake Powell, Glen Canyon Dam, Rainbow Bridge, Monument Valley, Navajo hogans, the Petrified Forest National Park and the Painted Desert.

103 "SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA" (13:17)

This Southern California seaside resort gently blends the traditions of Old Mexico with the latest trends of the modern world. Visitors will enjoy the Spanish missions, Old Town Park, water sports, Mission Bay, Balboa Park, Sea World, the famous San Diego Zoo, the San Diego Harbor and a side trip to Tijuana, Mexico.

104 "SEATTLE, WASHINGTON" (13:57)

The third largest city on the West Coast, Seattle is also one of the busiest deep water ports in the American west. Scenes include the Space Needle, Puget Sound, residential neighborhoods, hotels, Pioneer Square, hot air ballooning, Mount Rainier, the Bavarian village of Leavenworth, the Boeing aircraft factory, houseboats on Lake Washington, the University of Washington campus, nightlife and a Native American salmon bake and ceremonial dance (potlatch).

105 "ARIZONA" (12:14)

The tour of this arid yet inviting state includes the city of Phoenix, with its Heard Museum, Native American artifacts, shopping malls, mountains and golf courses; the Sun City retirement community, the historic Biltmore Hotel, the 21st century architectural experiment Arcosante, London Bridge, Lake Havasu City, Old Tucson, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, saguaro cactus, Tanque Verde Ranch, Tombstone, the University of Arizona campus and Mission San Javier del Bac.

106 "LAS VEGAS, NEVADA" (12:02)

A city that never sleeps, Las Vegas looks its glittering best under a dark desert night. Scenes include the famed neon-bedecked "Strip," stage shows, casino floors, wedding chapels, the University of Nevada campus, Lake Meade National Recreation Area, Hoover Dam, boating, Death Valley and mountain ranges.

107 "NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA" (12:36)

The French influence, from Bourbon Street through the French Quarter, with steam-powered sternwheeler packets drifting up the Mississippi River, is just part of what makes New Orleans one of the most picturesque cities in the U.S. Enjoy the Garden District, a mime performing in Jackson Square, a ride on a streetcar and a paddle-wheeled steamboat on the Mississippi, a visit to an antebellum plantation and Preservation Hall, Dixieland Jazz's hall of fame.

108 "NEW MEXICO" (12:15)

"Land of Enchantment," this western state is home to an eclectic blend of hispanic, anglo and Native Americans. Featured are the capital, Albuquerque, its Old Town and the Old Mission, handcrafted jewelry makers, the annual National Finals Rodeo, Santa Fe's Wheelwright Museum, the ghost town Madrid, the White Sands National Monument, the International Space Hall of Fame in Alamagordo, old Route 66 through Gallup and Chaco Canyon with its 1,000 year old pueblo.

"SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA" (14:36)

California's "Golden City by the Bay" is filled with memorable sights, from the hilly neighborhoods, the eclectic skyline, Union Square, cable cars, Chinatown, the Japan Center, the Cannery and Ghiradelli Square at Fisherman's Wharf, to the vineyards of Napa Valley, Marine World, Alcatraz Island and the Golden Gate Bridge.

110 "CHICAGO, ILLINOIS" (15:04)

"Gateway to the Midwest" and third largest city in the U.S., Chicago sits atop the state of Illinois. Scenes include Lake Michigan, the city skyline, the Chicago Board of Trade, O'Hare Airport, meat packing plants, the Water Tower, Marshall Field's, Miro's Chicago sculpture, Picasso's unnamed sculpture, Marc Chagall's "Four Seasons" mosaic, Alexander Calder's Flamingo, the Museum of Science and Industry, professional sports teams, the Elevated transit system and night life.

111 "LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA" (14:47)

"The City of the Angels" is the second largest city in the U.S., made up of such familiar suburbs as Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Chinatown, Santa Monica and Venice. Scenes also include Olivera Street, Little Tokyo, the Sunset Strip, the Farmer's Market, Rodeo Drive, Century City and Westwood.

112 "RENO, NEVADA" (12:36)

Nevada, once the only state that allowed gambling, is known for not one but two wide open, rip roaring crap shooting, card playing, bet-it-all cities. Reno is also proud of its annual air race, vintage car museum, University of Nevada campus, gaming academy, lavish stage shows, Lake Tahoe, the Ponderosa Ranch, Carson City and Virginia City.

AMERICAN CULTURAL MASTERS (1993)

This 12-part series showcases legendary figures in American music and cultural life. Using film and concert footage, vintage photographs, and interviews, this series highlights the special contributions these individuals have made to world culture.

Episode Synopsis

101 "CELEBRATING BIRD: THE TRIUMPH OF CHARLIE PARKER" 57 Minutes

This first and only authorized film on Charlie Parker focuses not just on him, but also on the evolution of jazz from the Armstrong era of the 1920s to the bebop music perfected by Parker in the 1940s and 1950s.

102 "SARAH VAUGHN: THE DIVINE ONE" 57 Minutes

This program reviews Sarah Vaughn's career, from her beginnings as a gospel-belting soloist in a church choir to her preeminence in nightclubs, concert halls, and jazz festivals around the world.

103 "GLENN MILLER: AMERICA'S MUSICAL HERO" 57 Minutes This first-ever film biography of the most popular band of the "Swing" era

This first-ever film biography of the most popular band of the "Swing" era features a stream of hits including "In the Mood," "Moonlight Serenade," "I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo," "Serenade in Blue," and "Tuxedo Junction."

104 "THELONIOUS MONK: AMERICAN COMPOSER" 57 Minutes This episode provides a balanced portrait of jazz great Thelonious Monk, an enigmatic man who was one of the 20th century's greatest composers.

105 "LADY DAY: THE MANY FACES OF BILLIE HOLIDAY" 57 Minutes
This program gives a new generation the chance to see the many faces of the
beautiful "dark lady of the sonnets."

106 "ALBERT EINSTEIN: HOW I SEE THE WORLD" 57 Minutes

Albert Einstein is recognized as perhaps the greatest genius of the 20th century. This documentary tells his story in his own words, through excerpts from personal letters, diaries, public speeches, and writings.

107 "THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JOHN COLTRANE" 57 Minutes

John Coltrane was the most innovative and influential saxophonist of the 1960s. This documentary traces his musical growth from its roots to the height of his success.

108 "SATCHMO: LOUIS ARMSTRONG"

This program explores the world of legendary trumpeter, singer, jazz pioneer, and all-round entertainer Louis Armstrong, a man who became a symbol of 20th century American culture.

109 "CHICH COREA AND BAND: A VERY SPECIAL CONCERT"

Chich Corea and fellow "Return To Fever" members join together to create a rich, inspiring hour of music.

110 "COUNT BASIE: SWINGIN' THE BLUES"

The famed Count Basie Band was one of the most famous Swing bands of all time. This program recounts the epic story of how William Basie made this band an American standard.

111 "MIDORI: LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL"

This program captures Midori's triumphant Carnegie Hall debut in October 1990. This extraordinary Japanese-American violinist has been heralded by critics, audiences, and fellow musicians as one of the most remarkable artists of this century.

112 "WYNTON MARSALIS: BLUES AND SWING"

Wynton Marsalis, the star trumpeter who has catapulted to the top of every major jazz critics poll, is featured in an intimate concert performance recorded at the Westwood Playhouse in Los Angeles.

CLUB DATE (1994)

This award-winning series, filmed before a live audience in an intimate night club setting, features performances by some of the world's great jazz artists.

Episode Synopsis

103 "KEN BARROW TRIO" 29 Minutes

Jazz pianist Kenny Barron, whose versatile career has spanned more that a quarter century, performs with special guest saxophonist Charles McPherson.

104 "ANITA O'DAY" 29 Minutes

Veteran jazz vocalist Anita O'Day performs some of her best known works, including "Honeysuckle Rose" and "Boogie Blues."

105 "KENNY BURREL" 29 Minutes

Kenny Burrel, master of the mellow guitar, perform with Bob Magnusson on bass and Sherman Ferguson on drums.

106 "THE CEDAR WALTON TRIO" 29 Minutes

Long considered one of the finest jazz pianists ever, Cedar Walton performs "Satin Doll" and other standards with drummer Billy Higgins and bassist Tony Dumas.

111 "THE RAY ANDERSON QUARTET" 28 Minutes

Trombonist Ray Anderson, who has been voted top trombonist in "Downbeat" magazine's International Critics Poll for four consecutive years, takes his Dixieland brass sound into new territory.

112 "THE MUNDELL LOWE ALL-STARS" 29 Minutes

Internationally acclaimed guitarist Mundell Lowe and his quartet perform "If You Could See Me Now," "Have You Met Miss Jones?," and other classics.

119 "BUD SHANK" 29 Minutes

Jazz alto saxophonist Bud Shank, a charter member of the "West Coast Sound," performs "Sea Flowers," "Emily," "Tomorrow's Rainbow" and other compositions.

120 "LAURINDO ALMEIDA" 29 Minutes

Jazz guitarist Laurindo Almeida, who blends samba rhythms with jazz and classical guitar themes, performs "One Note Samba," "Samba de Breck," "Inquetacao," and other selections with drummer Jim Plank and bassist Bob Magnusson.

121 "BUDDY DEFRANCO/TERRY GIBBS" 29 Minutes

Jazz clarinetist Buddy DeFranco and vibraharpist Terry Gibbs join for a spirited session of be-bop.

122 "JAMES MOODY" 29 Minutes

Jazz saxophonist James Moody, who gained prominence as a member of Dizzy Gillespie's be-bop band of the late 1940s, performs his improvisational solo classic "I'm in the Mood for Love" and other standards.

123 "HERB ELLIS" 29 Minutes

Jazz guitarist Herb Ellis, one of modern jazz's greatest guitarists, performs "Lover Man," "Things Ain't What They Used to Be," and other classic compositions.

124 "MOSE ALLISON" 29 Minutes

This episode features jazz/blues singer, songwriter, and pianist Moose Allison.

125 "HANK CRAWFORD AND JIMMY MCGRIFF" 29 Minutes

Alto saxophonist Hank Crawford and organist Jimmy McGriff perform their own special mix of jazz and blues.

126 "HARRY 'SWEET' EDISON" 29 Minutes

Harry Edison, one of the most gifted and distinctive trumpet stylists in the world, is the featured artist.

127 "JIMMY WITHERSPOON" 29 Minutes

Renowned blues singing legend Jimmy Witherspoon performs with his trio.

128 "JAZZ MESSENGERS TRIBUTE" 29 Minutes

Former members of the renowned "Jazz Messengers" jam together in tribute to "Jazz Messengers" founder Art Blakey.

129 "THE LES MCCANN QUINTET" 29 Minutes

Often called "The Father of Fusion," pianist/singer Les McCann and his quintet perform "Compared to What," "Young and Foolish," and other songs.

130 "SUE RANEY" 29 Minutes

This session features vocalist Sue Raney singing "Skylark," "There Will Never Be Another You," and "No More Blues."

HOLIDAY USA (1994)

Discover the friendly, fun-filled, wide open spaces that are the United States. Take an armchair tour from Maine to Hawaii, from fantasy fun parks in California to New Orleans' famous French Quarter, from western ghost towns to New York City's Great White Way, in these 13 half-hour programs.

EPISODE SYNOPSIS

- Visit the white sand beaches of Corpus Christi, on the "Texas Riviera," as well as that state's giant-sized King Ranch. Next, learn what makes a winter vacation at Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks so special. Then, tour the World War II submarine USS Pampinito, moored at San Francisco's Fisherman's wharf. Finally, take a relaxed driving vacation, by traveling via motor coach.
- Walk the thousand-mile Lincoln Heritage Trail, crisscrossing the state of Illinois, that honors our 16th president. Then, tour Atlantic City, New Jersey, the most visited destination in the U.S. Discover why skiing is only part of a trip to Wyoming and learn about fly casting and "leafing" in Maine.
- Leave the car on the mainland for your trip to Mackinac Island, Michigan. Enjoy the pristine rivers and forests of southern Oregon, then let the Oregon Shakespeare Festival transport you back to the 16th century. Next, take the theater critic's tour of New York's Broadway. Finally, learn all about Branson, Missouri, the new country music capitol.
- Take the Black Heritage tour, from Montgomery, Alabama, birthplace of the civil rights movement, to St. Helena, South Carolina, home to the Gullah descendants of West Africans. Next, try Hollywood hotels for exceptional star-gazing. Then, visit Connecticut, a small state of big contrasts, from 300-year-old colonial homes to brand new native American casinos. Finally, ski Vail/Beaver Creek, the largest single ski area in North America.
- 105 Cold weather elsewhere sends lots of visitors to Palm Beach, Florida in mid-winter, but there are equally good off-season reasons to visit. Next, enjoy the blending of Alaska's ancestral Aleut and Russian traditions. Then, tour some of Southern California's most unusual museums. Finally, see how New Mexicans celebrate Christmas in Taos and Albuquerque.
- "Ghost towns," mining encampments abandoned when the gold, silver or copper petered out, dot the Arizona, Nevada and California landscapes. Next, tour Charleston, South Carolina, a city that built walls against early pirates but welcomes friendly visitors today. Then, explore Hawaii's "Big Island," from the rain forest through the Parker Ranch to the active volcano. Finally, fans of "The

King" will enjoy learning about "Elvis Getaways."

- Hot Springs, Arkansas attracts visitors not just with its healthful mineral waters, but with exciting country music performances and "dig your own diamonds." Next, the Adirondacks State Park in upper New York State is nearly the size of the state of Vermont. Then, visit Washington, D.C., where the night life becomes more cosmopolitan every week. Finally, try two of Seattle's best known assets, fresh-caught fish and fresh-brewed coffee.
- It's buyer's choice on a gambling getaway from Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe and Atlantic City to Deadwood, South Dakota. Next, where's Eden? It's in Texas, along with Utopia, Comfort and other small towns near the Hill Country. Then, choose a restaurant that includes star gazing along with good food. And while you're at Disney World, don't forget Florida's Space Coast.
- Follow the Oregon Trail across Wyoming, from boom towns Cheyenne and Laramie to Yellowstone Park and the Grand Tetons. Next, visit Universal Studios Florida, the largest sound stage outside Hollywood. Then, enjoy the fun of New Orleans' French Quarter during Mardi Gras. Finally, join Baltimorians at Maryland's fine new aquarium right on the waterfront and shop in the oldest public market in the U.S.
- Arizona holds a world of excitement, from 19th century gunslingers' lairs to a city of the future. Then enjoy the excitement of New York City without going over budget. Next, savor the wilderness beauties of Montana, from fly fishing to cross-country skiing. Finally, tour California's Monterey peninsula, from the John Steinbeck Museum to the Monarch butterfly sanctuary.
- Spend some time on the Outer Banks of South Carolina, then learn money-saving tips in island and mainland destinations from Lahaina, Maui to Fort Pierce, Florida. Next, follow California's Highway 1 up the north coast, then cruise Utah's Lake Powell via houseboat.
- Go back home again to the small towns of Indiana, plan a fairy tale wedding at Florida's Disney World, enjoy 300 sunny days a year in San Antonio, Texas and visit the first European settlement in San Diego, California.
- Follow the Northwestern Trail of 19th century explorers Lewis and Clark along the Columbia River. Next, learn about vacations that are fun for the whole family. Then, enjoy the diverse pleasures of the Florida Keys and take in baseball's spring training in Phoenix and Orlando.

NATIVE AMERICAN ARTS (1996)

Eight programs of varying lengths introduce us to Native American art such as the totem poles, petroglyphs, kwakiutl carvings, masks, dance costumes, kachina dolls and Native American jewelry.

EPISODE SYNOPSIS

101 "TOTEM POLES: THE STORIES THEY TELL" (16:00)

Kwakiutl, Tlingit and Haida created their great totem poles in a land of mists and many moods. This unique art is shown at its original site. The video also tells what native carvers were depicting—the story of the Owl Woman and how Raven brought halibut to the people.

102 "CARVERS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST COAST" (20:00)

Kwakiutl artist Richard Hunt carves a ceremonial frog bowl while telling about his people's traditions. Totem poles, clan houses, and a wide range of crafts provide a rich introduction to the creative expression of the Pacific Northwest Coast Indians.

103 "PETROGLYPHS: DRAWING ON STONE" (16:00)

The video shows drawings etched on almost every boulder among the lava stones of an extinct volcano. These are called petroglyphs—art of the earliest native Americans. Symbols and designs were carved by the ancient ones to record a human presence in the west from prehistoric times.

104 "KACHINAS: THE STORIES THEY TELL" (20:00)

Kachinas are essential spirits of the Pueblo Indian world. Masks, dance costumes and kachina dolls make them visible. Using these and the annual celebration as a guide, this program brings their stories to life. Heroes and heroines, ogres and clowns reveal their secrets in dramatic combinations of live action, animation and computer graphics.

105 "IN THE LAND OF THE RAINBOW: THE SOUTHWEST" (20:00)

This video traces the cultural heritage of native Americans of this region back to the Anasazi. We see Hopi, Zuni and Navajo craftspersons at work creating traditional baskets, kachinas and jewelry. Their close connection to the environment is seen in beautiful pottery shaped from common clay and the architecture of the pueblo.

106 "TRIBES OF THE PLAINS: NATIVE AMERICAN ARTS" (22:00)

Bear claw necklaces, eagle feathered war bonnets, buffalo robes covered with storytelling pictures. These objects were part of the everyday lives of the People of the First Man. The video shows the heirs of these masters of the Great Plains, and how they created magnificently decorated practical objects for family, home

and horses.

107 "THE ARTS OF THE ESKIMO: AN ARTIC ADVENTURE" (23:00)

Shamen dance masks flickering in the light of oil lamps enliven the long Arctic nights. We go live to the far north land of Eskimos—Inupiaq, Inuit and Aleuts. Their unique arts and crafts present a wide range of materials from ivory, wood and bone to fur, feather, baleen and stone in a magnificent abstract display. Among the oldest groups of native Americans, their traditional arts are very much alive. We see both practical and ceremonial objects as well as work by contemporary artists.

108 "WOODLAND TRIBAL ARTS: NATIVE AMERICAN ARTS" (23:00)

Algonquin, Iroquois, Huron, and Winnebagos were hunters, farmers and warriors who created a portable art as they spread from the Northeast to the Great Lakes. Bear claws, animal hide and fur, antlers, shell and porcupine quill provided the medium for decoration on their clothing, weapons and artifacts. Among the most powerful images were masks carved from living trees, used by the Iroquois False Face Society to cure sickness.

NATIVE AMERICANS (1996)

The four 30-minute programs in this series provide a unique look into the colorful day-to-day life and customs of diverse Native American cultures, e.g., the Black-foot, Crow, Cheyenne, Omaha, Kiowa, Comanche, Sioux, Navajo and others. They also feature authentic re-enactments of the everyday life of the Native Americans as they existed prior to their first contact with immigrating Europeans.

EPISODE SYNOPSIS

101 "PEOPLE OF THE PLAINS" (24:00)

The Plains was home to many prominent tribes, including the Blackfeet, Crow, Cheyenne, Omaha, Kiowa, Comanche, Sioux and others. The focus of this video is the early 1800's, before significant European-American intrusion into the Plains, when the Lakota-Sioux controlled much of South Dakota, hunting buffalo with horses that were the descendants of those left behind.

102 "PEOPLE OF THE FOREST" (25:00)

This video is designed to introduce viewers to native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands and to help establish an affinity for their culture. It provides a rare glimpse of a unique culture in an entertaining and engaging format. Viewers will see that the eastern Woodlands is a unique region of dense forests, lakes and rivers. It is an era rich in natural resources and the home of many accomplished tribes: Ojibwa, Powhatan, Fox, Seminole and many others.

103 "PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWEST COAST" (23:00)

The focus of the video is pre-1600's before significant European intrusion into the Northwest Coast, when the culture of the Indians revolved around clan associations and the bountiful supply of fish and marine mammals that teemed in the waters.

104 "PEOPLE OF THE DESERT" (24:00)

The focus of this video is on prehistoric times when the Anasazi, or "ancient ones," as they were called by the Navajo, built impressive stone cities and cliff dwelling villages.

PORTRAITS IN AMERICAN ART (1996)

Cultural documentaries from two of the country's leading arts filmmakers include profiles of contemporary U.S. artists, architects and musicians. A ten-part series of 30-minute and 60-minute programs .

EPISODE SYNOPSIS

101 "RICHARD MEIER" (60:00)

Known for his elegant, white buildings, Richard Meier is one of America's most distinguished architects. In this program, Meier leads us on a personal tour of some of his award-winning buildings.

"GLEN TETLEY: PIERROT'S TOWER" (60:00)

"Glen Tetley: Pierrot's Tower" documents one of the most significant contributors to the dance world in the second half of this century. This video portrait of Glen Tetley centers around the recent staging of one of his most beautiful and moving ballets "Voluntaries" for the Het National Ballet in Amsterdam and also offers excerpts from his other important works.

103 "MUSICAL OUTSIDERS: AN AMERICAN LEGACY" (60:00)

Harry Partch, Lou Harrison and Terry Riley are a trio of composers whose personal stories and stylistic influence have become powerful in the legacy of musical outsiders. They are attracted to musical ideas and sounds outside of the classical mainstream. Together they offer a deeper understanding of what alternative music is and how it has worked in American culture.

104 "FRANK GEHRY" (60:00)

If there is one American architect responsible for the new image of the architect as artist, then it is Frank Gehry. Gehry is known for his creative use of cheap, off-beat building materials. This program shows numerous examples of his work.

105 "THE NEW MODERNISTS: NINE AMERICAN ARCHITECTS" (60:00)

This program looks at nine American-based architects and their innovative work. Projects include housing projects, commercial architecture, private homes and renovations, across time zones from New York to L.A. to Japan and beyond.

106 "ROMARE BEARDEN: VISUAL JAZZ" (30:00)

A bold and brilliant artist, Romare Bearden created collages and paintings of stunning humanity. He aimed to do nothing less than "to redefine the image of man" in terms of the African-American experience. This video is narrated by Wynton Marsalis and includes very rare footage of Bearden at work.

107 "FAITH RINGGOLD: THE LAST STORY QUILT" (30:00)

Share an insider's look at how one African American woman, through patience, perseverance and education fulfilled her dream of becoming an artist. A painter by profession, she has moved away from traditional framed canvases to, "tankas," paintings on quilted canvas with frames of quilted fabric.

108 "BETYE AND ALISON SAAR: CONJURE WOMEN OF THE ART" (30:00)

The program examines the personal and artistic relationship between artists Betye Saar and her daughter, Alison Saar. The artists' enthusiasm and originality make for an engaging video, showing both artists working in their studios, discussing their influences and collaborating on the installation piece "House of Gris."

109 "JACOB LAWRENCE: THE GLORY OF EXPRESSION" (30:00)

A documentary about the life and work of one of America's great living painters, the first African-American to be represented by a New York Gallery. Emphasis is placed on the epic narratives he painted about the struggles of the African-American people.

110 "ROBERT COLESCOTT: THE ONE-TWO PUNCH" (30:00)

This program profiles an award winning African-American artist. It shows the artist's work and philosophy and conveys his determination to succeed.